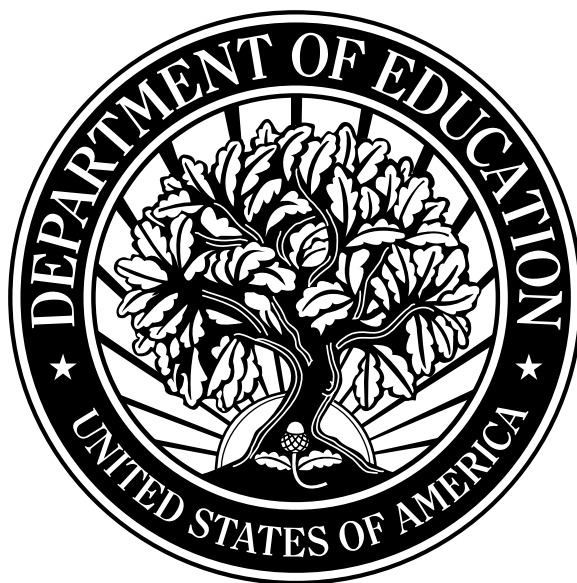


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2575

**FY 2011 APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR NEW GRANTS UNDER
THE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND
REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

**MODEL SYSTEMS
KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION CENTER
(MSKTC)**

CFDA NUMBER: 84.133A-3



FORM APPROVED

**OMB No. 1820-0027, EXP. DATE 03/31/2013
SF FORM 424, 1/31/2012**

**DATED MATERIAL—OPEN IMMEDIATELY
CLOSING DATE: MARCH 7, 2011**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section A	Dear Applicant Letter
Section B	Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards
Section C	Federal Register Notice Final Priorities
Section D	Background Statement
Section E	Requirements for DRRP Competitions.
Section F	Selection Criteria
Section G	Protection of Human Subjects
Section H	Application Format—Instructions for Application <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Assistance Face Page (SF 424)• ED Supplemental Form• Table of Contents• Project Abstract• Budget Information• Budget Narrative• Application Narrative• Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support• Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures• Certifications Regarding Lobbying
Section I	Frequently Asked Questions Points to Remember in Application Preparation DUNS Number Instructions
Section J	Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants Application Transmittal Instructions
Section K	Required Forms and Form Instructions
Section L	Application Checklist Paperwork Burden Statement

SECTION A

DEAR APPLICANT LETTER

January 06, 2011

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for a new award in fiscal year (FY) 2011 under the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects, for a Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC)(CFDA Number - 84.133A-3). NIDRR is seeking applications that address all elements of the priority, and that propose appropriate, high-quality research methodologies. It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals.

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The start date for new awards for the (FY) 2011 programs will be no later than October 1, 2011.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This application package contains information and the required forms for potential applicants to apply and be considered for a FY 2011 grant award under this competition, including the published Federal Register notice dated Tuesday, January 06, 2011. The background statement from the Notice of Proposed Priorities is in Section D.

The closing date (application deadline) is **March 07, 2011**.

Potential applicants are advised to read the materials in this application package carefully. Please pay particular attention to the information on the types of organizations that are eligible to apply for these grants, how to prepare an application, the dollar amount for any year, the protection of human subjects, and the selection criteria. Applications must be responsive to the absolute priority in Section C and the statutory, regulatory, and general requirements for the DRRP program in Section E. The application narrative should be written in the order of the selection criteria in Section F. The selection criteria will be used by the reviewers to evaluate the application.

Include a one page abstract. The abstract is a critical component of the proposal, and it should describe the purpose, target population to be served during the project period, planned goals and objectives, proposed methodological approach, and anticipated project outcomes.

Award Amounts, Required Cost Share and Indirect Cost Rate

We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the revised amount of \$800,000 for a single budget period of 12 months for the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) (CFDA Number - 84.133A-3). The minimum cost sharing of up to 1% is required and can be negotiated at the time of the grant award if not included in the application. Cost-match/share can be a reduced indirect cost rate, donated FTE, donated space, and/or donated equipment. The indirect cost rate is your institution's federally negotiated rate.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

You **must** submit your application electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site. See Section B, Notice Inviting Applications and Section J, Application Transmittal Instructions.

NOTE: You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for:

- (1) abstract;
- (2) table of contents;
- (3) project narrative;
- (4) other – resumes;
- (5) other – letters of commitment/support;
- (6) other and
- (7) budget narrative/justification.

There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

Electronic copies must be fully uploaded on the Grants.gov site by 4:30:00 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date, **March 07, 2011**. This process may take several hours. Therefore, please allow several hours or a full day to submit your application. If there is a submission error, additional time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit.

We encourage you to read Section J – Grants.Gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

These grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97, which set forth general rules affecting the submittal, review, grant award, and post-award administration for Department of Education grant programs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pre-Application Meeting:

A pre-application meeting will be held between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on January 25, 2011 by teleconference. Interested parties are invited to participate in the pre-application meeting to discuss the funding priority and to receive information and technical assistance. You must contact Lynn Medley at Lynn.Medley@ed.gov by Monday, January 24, 2011 in order to participate in this meeting. NIDRR staff also will be available to provide information and technical assistance via individual phone consultations from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on January 25, 2011. Requests for individual consultations during this one hour window must be made in advance to Lynn Medley.

If you have any questions about the information in this application package, please contact Lynn Medley at Lynn.Medley@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7338 or Marlene Spencer at Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7532. Individuals who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday.

If you experience problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726.

NOTE: Please forward this entire application package to the individual or office responsible for preparing an application, as they will need the entire package to complete the grant application.

Thank you for your interest in these programs.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Sue Swenson,
Acting Director,
National Institute on Disability and
Rehabilitation Research

SECTION B

***FEDERAL REGISTER* NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS**

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Overview Information

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

(NIDRR)--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project and

Centers Program--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

(DRRPs)--Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC).

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY)
2011.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-3.

Dates:

Applications Available: **January 06, 2011.**

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: **January 27, 2011.**

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: **March 07, 2011.**

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the DRRP program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the

following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at:

www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP.

Priorities: The General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements priority is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability Rehabilitation Research Project and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). The Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) priority is from the notice of final priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project to serve as the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC), published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2006 (71 FR 32196).

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2011, these are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

General Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements and Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC).

Note: The full text of these priorities is included in the pertinent notice of final priority or priorities published in the Federal Register and in the application package for this competition.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (c) The notice of final priorities for the Disability Rehabilitation Research Project and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). (d) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2006 (71 FR 32196).

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education (IHEs) only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$111,919,000 for NIDRR for FY 2011, of which we intend to use an

estimated 800,000 for new awards for this competition for FY 2011. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to compete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$800,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Maximum Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; IHEs; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is required by 34 CFR 350.62(a) and will be negotiated at the time of the grant award.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the Internet, use the following address:

www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html. To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: www.EDPubs.gov or at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.133A-3.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the person or team listed under Accessible Format in section VIII of this notice.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission: Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Single spacing may be used for titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the page limit does apply to all of the application narrative section (Part III).

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each

application must include a cover sheet (Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and narrative budget justification; other required forms; an abstract, Human Subjects narrative, Part III project narrative; resumes of staff; and other related materials, if applicable.

3. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: January 06, 2011.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation with NIDRR staff. The pre-application meeting will be held on January 27, 2011. Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time. NIDRR staff also will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the same day, by telephone, to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. For further information or to make arrangements to participate in the meeting via conference call or for an individual consultation, contact Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), room 5140, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail: Lynn.Medley@ed.gov.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: March 07, 2011

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 7. Other Submission Requirements of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

4. Intergovernmental Review: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

5. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

6. Data Universal Numbering System Number, Taxpayer

Identification Number, and Central Contractor Registry: To do business with the Department of Education, you must--

- a. Have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);
- b. Register both your DUNS number and TIN with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), the Government's primary registrant database;
- c. Provide your DUNS number and TIN on your application; and
- d. Maintain an active CCR registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

You can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet. A DUNS number can be created within one business day.

If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow 2-5 weeks for your TIN to become active.

The CCR registration process may take five or more business days to complete. If you are currently registered with the CCR, you may not need to make any changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also

note that you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf).

7. Other Submission Requirements. Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center competition, CFDA number 84.133A-3, must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at www.Grants.gov. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for

one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center competition at www.Grants.gov. You must search for the downloadable application package for this competition by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (e.g., search for 84.133, not 84.133A).

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted and must be date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not accept your application if it is received--that is, date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system--

after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov under News and Events on the Department's G5 system home page at <http://www.G5.gov>.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic

submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .PDF (Portable Document) format only. If you upload a file type other than a .PDF or submit a password-protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page-limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second notification to you by e-mail. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues

with the Grants.gov System: If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your

ability to submit your application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because--

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system;

and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of

the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Lynn Medley,
U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room
5140 PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700

FAX: (202) 245-7323.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-3)
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark.

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service. If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-3)
550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR and are listed in the application package.

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also

consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

3. Special Conditions: Under 34 CFR 74.14 and 80.12, the Secretary may impose special conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 34 CFR parts 74 or 80, as applicable; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may notify you informally, also. If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the

application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

Note: NIDRR will provide information by letter to grantees on how and when to submit the final performance report.

4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through a review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines a portion of its grantees to determine:

- The number of accomplishments (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices) developed or tested with NIDRR funding that have been judged by expert panels to be of high quality and to advance the field.
- The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.
- The percentage of new NIDRR grants that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous methods.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for these reviews.

Department of Education program performance reports, which include information on NIDRR programs, are available on the Department's Web site:

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oeped/sas/index.html.

5. Continuation Awards: In making a continuation award, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.253, the extent to which a grantee has made "substantial progress toward meeting the

objectives in its approved application." This consideration includes the review of a grantee's progress in meeting the targets and projected outcomes in its approved application, and whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5140, PCP, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail:

Lynn.Medley@ed.gov

If you use a TDD, call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room

5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363.

If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

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www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html.

Dated:

/s/

Alexa Posny,
Assistant Secretary for
Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

SECTION C

FEDERAL REGISTER
FINAL PRIORITY NOTICE
PUBLISHED: JUNE 2, 2006

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—
Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers
Program; Funding Priorities

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,
Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services announces certain final priorities for
the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers
Program administered by the National Institute on Disability and
Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Specifically, this notice
announces six priorities for Disability Rehabilitation Research
Projects (DRRPs); one priority for a Rehabilitation Research and
Training Center (RRTC); and three priorities for Rehabilitation
Engineering Research Centers (RERCs). The Assistant Secretary
may use these priorities for competitions in fiscal year (FY)
2006 and later years. We take this action to focus research
attention on areas of national need. We intend these priorities
to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes for individuals
with disabilities.

DATES:

Effective Date: These priorities are effective July 3, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Nangle, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6030, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7462 or via Internet: donna.nangle@ed.gov. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

We published a notice of proposed priorities (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on February 7, 2006 (71 FR 6318). The NPP included a background statement that described our rationale for each priority proposed in that notice. This notice of final priorities (NFP) addresses 10 of the 15 priorities proposed in the NPP. The priorities addressed in this NFP are as follows:

- Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 4 in the NPP).
- Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities (a DRRP, designated as Priority 5 in the NPP).

- Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 6 in the NPP).
- Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project (a DRRP, designated as Priority 7 in the NPP).
- Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision (a DRRP, designated as Priority 8 in the NPP).
- Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population (a DRRP, designated as Priority 9 in the NPP).
- RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures (designated as Priority 12 in the NPP).
- RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging (designated as Priority 13 in the NPP).
- RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety (designated as Priority 14 in the NPP).
- RERC for Wireless Technologies (designated as Priority 15 in the NPP).

We published the following three priorities in a separate notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472):

- General DRRP Requirements (designated as Priority 1 in the NPP).

- National Data and Statistical Center for the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Model Systems (a DRRP, designated as Priority 2 in the NPP).
- National Data and Statistical Center for the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems (a DRRP, designated as Priority 3 in the NPP).

Because of the volume of comments received in response to the NPP, NIDRR intends to publish a separate notice of final priorities for the remaining two priorities proposed in the NPP (i.e., the Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers priorities designated as Priorities 10 and 11 in the NPP). More information on these other priorities and the projects and programs that NIDRR intends to fund in FY 2006 can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/nidrr/priority-matrix.html>.

This NFP contains several changes from the NPP. Specifically, we have made changes to the DRRP priorities for *Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)*, *Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities*, and Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (*MSKTC*); and the three RERC priorities (i.e., the *RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging*, the *RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety*, and the

RERC for Wireless Technologies). We fully explain these changes in the *Analysis of Comments and Changes* section that follows.

Analysis of Comments and Changes

In response to our invitation in the NPP, 51 parties submitted comments on the proposed priorities addressed in this NFP. An analysis of the comments and the changes in the priorities since publication of the NPP follows. We discuss major issues according to general topic questions and priorities. Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes—and suggested changes the law does not authorize us to make under the applicable statutory authority.

Scope of Work General

Comment: Several commenters asked whether NIDRR intends to support an RRTC that is designed to address the rehabilitation needs of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or who are blind or vision impaired.

Discussion: At this time, NIDRR does not have plans to propose priorities for FY 2006 for any RRTCs other than the *RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions*.

Changes: None.

Comment: Several commenters asked whether NIDRR plans to use the DRRP mechanism as a substitute for the RRTC program mechanism to support certain projects that have been supported under the RRTC

program in the past (e.g., rehabilitation research and training on deafness and hard of hearing).

Discussion: Both the DRRP and RRTC program mechanisms have unique, valued features. In general, the DRRP program is more flexible than the RRTC program because DRRPs *may* include research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities that help maximize the full inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into society and improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. In contrast, RRTCs *must* carry out advanced programs of research, conduct training activities, and conduct technical assistance. NIDRR believes that, because of the added flexibility that the DRRP mechanism offers, in some instances it is appropriate to use it to support research, training, and related activities that previously have been supported through the RRTC program mechanism.

Changes: None.

Comment: Several commenters expressed concern that NIDRR did not include information in the proposed priorities about the resources available for the projects to be funded, such as level of funding and project duration.

Discussion: These details are not subject to public comment and, therefore, are not included in the NPP. We will include information about available resources in any notice inviting

applications that NIDRR publishes for projects that it intends to fund using these priorities.

Changes: None.

Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 4 in the NPP).

Two parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority on Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

One party provided substantive comments that require discussion in this NFP, while the other provided general positive feedback on the priority.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should foster the development and validation of discipline specific outcome measures across the pediatric age spectrum so that the functional consequences of tested interventions can be accurately assessed.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that well validated outcome measures capable of assessing change across the pediatric age spectrum are critical. Without these measures, documentation of the functional consequences of rehabilitation interventions and transition strategies would be limited. With this priority, NIDRR is encouraging applicants to develop or test innovative approaches to treating children with TBI. This focus on treatment supports an emphasis on interventions research; however, in recognition of the important role of assessment in

the measurement of treatment effectiveness, the priority has been changed to include development of outcome measures that may be used to assess the effectiveness of supported interventions and transition strategies.

Changes: Paragraphs (a) and (b) of the priority have been changed to provide for the development or testing of outcome measures necessary to assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions and transition strategies for children with TBI.

Comment: One commenter suggested that the priority should require the development of mechanisms that would facilitate collaboration between multiple institutions as they work to understand and demonstrate the effects of specific interventions on children with TBI. The commenters suggested the following as examples of mechanisms that would facilitate this type of collaboration: data infrastructures with multi-institutional access, and universal flexible tools that can be used to develop multi-site collaborations.

Discussion: NIDRR recognizes the value of multi-site interventions research, particularly in light of the need for sample sizes that are large enough to allow for adequate assessment of outcomes. Nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing multi-site interventions research or the development of the mechanisms necessary for this type of

research. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities (a DRRP, designated as Priority 5 in the NPP).

Four parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority for Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities. Two parties provided substantive comments that require discussion in this NFP, while the other two commenters provided general positive feedback on the priority.

Comment: One commenter suggested that requiring projects to focus their research on obesity in either the adolescent population or the adult population, rather than on both, may improve the likelihood that a research project will achieve its stated outcomes under the priority.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that an applicant may limit its research project to focus only on obesity in the adolescent population or only on obesity in the adult population. We have revised the priority to clarify that an applicant may focus its research on one or both populations. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: We have revised this priority to clarify that applicants can focus their research and proposed activities on obesity either in the adolescent population or the adult population, or on obesity in both the adolescent and adult populations.

Comment: One commenter strongly recommended that the Department fund projects with proposals that reflect consumer interests.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees with this comment. Under its General DRRP Requirements priority (designated as Priority 1 in the NPP and published in the notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472)), each applicant must involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and evaluating its work. As stated in the NPP, NIDRR intends to pair the *General DRRP Requirements* priority with each of the DRRP priorities proposed in the NPP. Accordingly, applicants for funding under this priority will be required to meet the requirements in the *General DRRP Requirements* priority as well. The requirement regarding the involvement of individuals with disabilities in the planning and implementation activities of a DRRP's work is intended to ensure that all DRRP priorities consider consumer perspectives.

Changes: None.

Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) (a DRRP, designated as Priority 6 in the NPP).

One party submitted several comments on the proposed DRRP priority for the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC).

Some of these comments focused on the *Background* statement for this priority and do not require discussion in this NFP. We have responded to one comment regarding the *Background* statement, however, in an effort to clarify NIDRR's intent for this priority.

Comment: The commenter expressed concern that the *Background* statement included in the NPP for the MSKTC priority implied that the MSKTC will be responsible for disseminating materials produced from non-Model Systems Program research on SCI, TBI, and burn injury rehabilitation.

Discussion: The MSKTC will only be responsible for improving knowledge translation (KT) of research conducted within the three specified Model Systems Programs. Accordingly, the MSKTC will only be responsible for disseminating materials produced by the three Model Systems Programs specified in the priority.

Changes: None.

Comment: None.

Discussion: NIDRR has recently funded several projects that promote the KT objectives described in NIDRR's Long Range Plan.

NIDRR expects that the MSKTC will collaborate with these and future NIDRR-funded projects to address KT issues of mutual interest.

This collaboration may include the MSKTC's participation in the KT task forces of NIDRR's National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research or other NIDRR-funded KT projects so that the centers can share information about the current progress being made in the development of standards, research syntheses, and evidence in disability and rehabilitation research.

The MSKTC also likely will be involved in sharing KT techniques for capacity building among researchers in Model Systems projects and for informing stakeholder organizations and individuals with disabilities about quality research. The MSKTC may be funded as a cooperative agreement in order to facilitate these and similar roles.

Changes: Paragraph (b) of this priority has been changed to clarify that the MSKTC must develop partnerships and collaborate with other NIDRR-funded projects in order to achieve the outcome of enhanced knowledge of advances in SCI, TBI and Burn Injury research.

Comment: The commenter asked whether NIDRR intends for the MSKTC to conduct syntheses of research in the fields of TBI, SCI, and Burn Injury research. The commenter pointed out that conducting these types of syntheses would require assessments of material

produced outside the Model Systems Programs, and would likely be beyond the scope of the MSKTC.

Discussion: To meet this priority, applicants must contribute to an enhanced understanding of the quality and relevance of the Model Systems Programs' research on SCI, TBI and Burn Injury by identifying and applying appropriate standards and methods for conducting research synthesis. Applicants, therefore, may choose to identify standards or methods that assess research produced outside the Model Systems Programs if an assessment of this research helps evaluate the quality and relevance of the Model Systems Programs' research on SCI, TBI, and Burn Injury. NIDRR expects the MSKTC to provide guidance to Model Systems researchers on standards and methods for conducting research and reporting findings to enhance the likelihood that Model Systems research is useful to numerous stakeholders, including practitioners and individuals with TBI, SCI, and Burn Injury. NIDRR is particularly interested in ensuring that any information to be disseminated by the Model Systems centers meets the highest possible standards of quality, and is based on scientifically rigorous research. NIDRR also intends to ensure that, to the extent possible, any information needed to assess the quality of research findings and the relevance of findings to the various stakeholders, including consumers, practitioners, and researchers is available to users. It is up to applicants to

propose ways in which standards related to these objectives might be identified, developed, or applied. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: The commenter requested clarification on how NIDRR intends for the MSKTC to bridge gaps between research and evidence-based practice. Specifically, the commenter expressed concern about whether it is useful for the MSKTC to provide standards and methods for research syntheses to the Model Systems Programs since the Model Systems Programs conduct research, not research syntheses. The commenter added that requiring the MSKTC to provide information on evidence grading would be beneficial in improving research design, implementing research, and reporting findings.

Discussion: NIDRR applauds the commenter for providing an excellent summary of the purposes of the MSKTC. We would add that making research findings relevant to the various target populations is another goal of the MSKTC. While providing information on grading evidence may be an integral part of making research relevant, other strategies, including providing information on research syntheses, also may be relevant. NIDRR does not believe that it is appropriate to require all applicants to agree to provide information on evidence grading methodologies to the Model Systems Programs. That said, nothing

in the priority prohibits an applicant from proposing to provide Model Systems Programs with this information. The peer review process will determine the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project (a DRRP, designated as Priority 7 in the NPP).

Nine parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority for the *Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project*.

Three parties provided substantive comments that require discussion in this NFP, while the remainder of the commenters provided general positive feedback on the priority.

Comment: One commenter suggested that projects that develop a program to certify AT assessment providers should be eligible for funding under this priority.

Discussion: A project that proposes to develop a certification program for AT assessment providers may be eligible for funding under this priority if it supports the outcomes that NIDRR delineated in the priority. While NIDRR does not believe that it is appropriate to require all applicants to propose this type of program, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from doing so.

The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should include an additional outcome that focuses on the need for a unified framework for describing the impact of AT across populations and environments.

Discussion: While NIDRR agrees that a unified framework for describing the impact of AT across populations and environments should be a goal for the AT field, the development of this type of framework is beyond the scope of this priority. That said, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing to work toward the development of this type of a framework. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should highlight the importance of outcomes associated with AT to support cognitive function.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that AT to support cognitive function might be an excellent subject for further development for projects funded under this priority. However, NIDRR does not believe that all applicants should be required to focus their proposed research on this specific type of AT. Nothing in the priority, however, precludes an applicant from proposing to focus its research on AT to support cognitive function. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision (a DRRP, designated as Priority 8 in the NPP).

Four parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority on *Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision*.

Comment: Two commenters expressed concern that the *Background* statement for this priority reflects a lack of understanding about the relationship between "wayfinding technologies" and "conventional approaches" to dealing with navigation and travel-related challenges facing individuals with blindness and low vision. Additionally, the commenters suggested that, in the implementation of the priority, NIDRR should require grantees to recognize that mobility skills, whether practiced through proper cane technique or use of a guide dog, are essential to safe travel and that new technology may complement but not replace mobility skills training.

Discussion: In developing this priority, NIDRR considered existing literature and reports related to wayfinding technologies, intervention strategies, and related issues; as well as the current state of the science in the areas of wayfinding technologies, intervention strategies, and orientation and mobility techniques for navigation and travel problems facing individuals with blindness and low vision.

Following our review of these materials and research findings, we identified a range of critical issues surrounding wayfinding technologies and intervention strategies, including lack of consensus about terminology and effectiveness of specific intervention strategies. The priority was developed with these issues in mind. Specifically, the priority was developed because of the need for further research regarding the effectiveness of wayfinding technologies and orientation and mobility techniques for independent travel of blind and visually impaired consumers. There are many questions and positions regarding essential mobility skills for safe travel. However, there is no basis for requiring that all applicants adopt a specific theory, philosophy, orientation or principle regarding independent travel skills, techniques, or intervention strategies. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of the proposals.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter requested that this priority be expanded to address the mobility and wayfinding technology needs of deaf-blind individuals.

Discussion: NIDRR intends for this priority to specifically address the development of wayfinding technologies for the blind and visually impaired population. In order to be eligible for funding under this priority, applicants must propose activities

focused on the areas of research specified in the priority.

However, NIDRR believes that within the broad areas of research outlined in the priority, an applicant could propose to conduct research that addresses the needs of the deaf-blind population, particularly as a subpopulation of the blind and visually impaired population.

NIDRR believes that it also would be appropriate for applicants to propose research that demonstrates how advances in wayfinding technologies may ultimately result in the development of solutions that will address the unique mobility challenges facing the deaf-blind population.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter encouraged the Department to support a project that examines the wide range of technologies addressing navigation and travel-related needs of individuals with blindness and low vision that are currently being implemented and developed in other countries. The commenter also suggested that, under this priority, wayfinding technologies should be examined in a variety of different pedestrian environments.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that studies examining the wide range of technologies that are currently being implemented and developed worldwide, including examination of wayfinding technologies in a variety of different pedestrian environments, may be beneficial. The priority does not preclude an applicant

from proposing an international focus, or an examination of wayfinding technologies in different pedestrian environments. However, NIDRR does not believe that it is appropriate to require all applicants to focus their research on one or both of these areas. The peer reviewers will assess the merits of research proposals submitted.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stressed the importance of including individuals with visual impairments and their representatives in the planning and research activities of the projects funded under this priority.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees with this comment. Under its General DRRP Requirements priority (designated as Priority 1 in the NPP and published in the notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472)), each applicant must involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and evaluating its work. As stated in the NPP, NIDRR intends to pair the *General DRRP Requirements* priority with each of the DRRP priorities proposed in the NPP. Accordingly, applicants for funding under this priority will be required to meet the requirements in the *General DRRP Requirements* priority as well.

Changes: None.

Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population (a DRRP, designated as Priority 9 in the NPP).

Nine parties submitted comments on the proposed DRRP priority on *Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population*.

Comment: Several commenters requested information on whether NIDRR intends to develop a separate priority that will focus on the needs of the 29 million persons identified as deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and language deprived.

Discussion: NIDRR and the Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) have supported research activities that target the broader population of persons with hearing loss for more than 40 years. Although NIDRR is sensitive to the continuing rehabilitation needs of members of this broader population, we have determined that there is a need for research that focuses on the special needs of the sub-population of low functioning deaf. At this time, NIDRR does not intend to develop a separate priority that focuses on the broader population of persons with hearing loss for FY 2006.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter would like to see additional research focusing on employment opportunities for working age persons with deaf-blindness and also, additional research related to employment issues and deafness.

Discussion: While NIDRR recognizes the importance of studies examining employment issues and deafness, and the needs of working age persons with deaf-blindness, the population of individuals who are LFD is the target population for this priority. Research literature addressing the LFD population is limited. Moreover, NIDRR's own research portfolio currently does not include research that focuses on the LFD population. In contrast, NIDRR currently supports research on the employment of individuals with blindness and deafness, as well as a major study of blindness, deafness, and aging. Therefore, we believe that research targeting the LFD population will address a gap in current research, including NIDRR's own research portfolio; enhance our understanding about individuals who are deaf; and assist to improve outcomes for the LFD population.

Changes: None.

RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures (designated as Priority 12 in the NPP).

Three parties submitted comments on the proposed priority for an *RRTC on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures*.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority may not be supportable

Notices under the statutory language authorizing research grants for RRTCs. The commenter suggested that the priority's

focus on participation by individuals at home, in the community, or in educational or workplace activities was at odds with a requirement that RRTCs focus exclusively on the ability of individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment.

Discussion: NIDRR does not agree that RRTCs are required to focus exclusively on the ability of individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment or that the priority is inconsistent with the RRTC regulatory or statutory authority.

Nothing in section 204 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, requires RRTC research grants to focus exclusively on the ability of individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment. Moreover, the purpose of RRTCs, as stated in the Department's regulations, is to (a) develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology, that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, and independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities; and (b) improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (see 34 CFR 350.2 and 350.20). RRTCs conduct coordinated and integrated advanced programs of research targeted toward the

production of new knowledge to improve rehabilitation methodology and service delivery systems, alleviate or stabilize disability conditions, or promote maximum social and economic independence for persons with disabilities (see 34 CFR 350.22(a)). The emphasis of this priority is to enhance community living and participation in accordance with NIDRR's mission and its Long Range Plan. As reflected in NIDRR's overall portfolio of grants, we recognize the central role of employment for many individuals with disabilities. Nothing in this priority prohibits applicants from proposing research activities that address employment issues. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that NIDRR should require the grantee under this priority to cooperate with NIDRR's RRTC on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities and its RRTC on Disability Statistics and Demographics. The commenter noted that problems faced by persons with disabilities are multi-faceted and that the process of knowledge translation and capacity building could be supported by cooperative ventures.

Discussion: We agree that outcomes for individuals with disabilities can be enhanced through coordination among NIDRR grantees. All NIDRR RRTCs must carry out coordinated advanced programs of rehabilitation research. As with other NIDRR grants,

the NIDRR project officer for the grantee supported under this priority will work with the grantee to facilitate appropriate coordination with other NIDRR supported RRTCs.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should require grantees to develop concise and sensitive measures of accessibility for different types of impairment-related needs. In addition, the commenter identified a need for the development of sampling frames and statistical criteria for determining sample size. The commenter also suggested that grantees should be required to develop and assess sources of indicators for environmental barriers to full participation.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that it is important to develop measures of accessibility for different types of impairment-related needs, along with sample frames and statistical criteria for determining sample size. Through our research portfolio, we already support work in this area. That said, nothing in this RRTC priority prohibits applicants from proposing the specific research activities suggested by the commenter.

The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter requested clarification on whether paragraph (b) of this priority requires research projects to

focus solely on the implementation of the *Olmstead v. L.C.* (527 U.S. 581) decision, or if the priority allows for the evaluation of other aspects of the *Olmstead* decision as well. The commenter identified a number of potential research areas that go beyond the implementation of *Olmstead*, such as examination of the principles and philosophy of the decision as it applies to individuals with disabilities in different contexts, or examination of how the principles and philosophy of the decision have affected other cross disability populations in different contexts.

Discussion: In accordance with Executive Order 13217, NIDRR's mission, and its Long Range Plan, we are committed to support research that will maximize the availability of high quality community-based practices, programs, and services for individuals with disabilities. Successful implementation of the *Olmstead* decision requires that we understand and alleviate barriers to community living and that we maximize resources that facilitate community living. NIDRR believes that a broad array of research questions relating to the implementation of the *Olmstead* decision, including those areas proposed by the commenter, may be proposed under this priority.

The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each proposal.

Changes: None.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) (designated as Priorities 13, 14 and 15 in the NPP).

Nine parties submitted comments on the three proposed priorities for RERCs. *General*

Comment: One commenter suggested that rather than requiring RERC grantees to develop plans to involve individuals with disabilities in their projects after they receive an award (i.e., within the first three months of the project period), it makes more sense to require all applicants to include these plans in their proposals. In this way, the plans would be peer reviewed as part of the application review process.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that all RERC applicants should be required to include their plans to involve individuals with disabilities in their proposals.

Changes: The RERC requirement pertaining to plans for involving individuals with disabilities or their representatives in all phases of the RERC's activities that applicants under each priority must address has been revised to require applicants to include their plans to involve people with disabilities in their proposals.

Comment: One commenter suggested that all RERC applicants should be required to include plans to disseminate their research results in their proposal, as opposed to being required to develop these plans after receiving an award.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that all RERC applicants should include plans to disseminate their research results in their proposals. These dissemination plans will be evaluated by the peer review panel using the Department's Design of dissemination *activities* selection criteria in 34 CFR 350.54(g).

Changes: The RERC requirement pertaining to dissemination plans that applicants under each priority must address has been revised to require applicants to include their plans to disseminate research results in their proposals.

Comment: One commenter suggested that all RERC applicants should be required to include their plans to transfer developed technologies to the marketplace in their proposals, as opposed to being required to develop these plans after receiving an award.

Discussion: The RERC priorities contain a requirement that each RERC must have the capability to assist in the transfer of successful solutions to relevant production and service delivery settings. The applicant's response to this requirement in its application will be considered as part of the peer reviewers' review of the applicant's proposed development activities. NIDRR believes that, with this information, the peer reviewers will be able to evaluate whether the applicant has the capability to transfer developed technologies to the marketplace.

Changes: None.

RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging (designated as Priority 13 in the NPP).

Comment: One commenter urged NIDRR to incorporate the principles of universal design in the priority for the *RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging*.

Discussion: NIDRR has long supported and advocated the principles of universal design and agrees that this priority should address the importance of universal design in product research and development.

Changes: We have revised this priority to require grantees to emphasize the principles of universal design in their product research and development.

Comment: One commenter suggested that this priority should include a focus on assistive technologies for cognition.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that an RERC funded under this priority may research, develop, and evaluate assistive technologies for cognition. An applicant could propose activities that focus on assistive technologies for cognition and the peer review process will evaluate the merits of the applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that this priority should require applicants to address human-technology interfaces or operating controls for persons with vision impairment.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that human technology interfaces are critical for device utility. An applicant could propose activities that include the research, development, or evaluation of human-technology interfaces or operating controls for persons with vision impairment and the peer review process will evaluate the merits of the applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety (designated as Priority 14 in the NPP).

Comment: Four commenters stated that the priority for the *RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety* needed an additional statement to clarify the intent of the priority.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the addition of a qualifying statement will help clarify the intent of this priority.

The intent of this priority is to improve the safety and independence of wheelchair users who remain seated in their wheelchairs while using public and private transportation services.

Changes: The priority has been revised to emphasize that the focus of the RERC's activities on wheeled mobility devices and wheelchair seating systems must relate to their use in the transportation environment.

Comment: One commenter stated that this priority should require applicants to improve the state of the science, design

guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint systems.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that improvement in the state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint systems would be beneficial to persons using wheelchairs.

Nothing in this priority prohibits an applicant from proposing activities that improve the state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheelchair securement and occupant restraint systems. The peer review process will evaluate the merits of each applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that this priority should address the safe use of scooters and large wheelchairs in transportation environments.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the increased use of scooters and large wheelchairs in the transportation environment deserves attention. An applicant could propose activities that include research and evaluation of scooter and large wheelchair use in transportation environments; the peer review process will evaluate the merits of each applicant's proposal.

Changes: None.

RERC for Wireless Technologies (*designated as Priority 15 in the NPP*).

Comment: One commenter urged NIDRR to incorporate the principles of universal design in the priority for the RERC for Wireless Technologies.

Discussion: NIDRR has long supported and advocated the principles of universal design and agrees that this priority should address the importance of universal design in product research and development.

Changes: We have revised this priority to require grantees to emphasize the principles of universal design in their product research and development.

Note: This notice does *not* solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use one or more of these priorities, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register. When inviting applications we designate each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by either (1) awarding additional points, depending on how well or the extent to which the application meets the competitive

preference priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the competitive preference priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the invitational priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

Note: This NFP is in concert with President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative (NFI) and NIDRR's Final Long-Range Plan for FY 2005-2009 (Plan). The NFI can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom>.

The Plan, which was published in the Federal Register on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html>.

Through the implementation of the NFI and the Plan, NIDRR seeks to—(1) Improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research; (2) Foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations; (3) Determine best strategies and

programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations; (4) Identify research gaps; (5) Identify mechanisms of integrating research and practice; and (6) Disseminate findings.

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, development, demonstration, training, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b). In addition, NIDRR intends to require all DRRP applicants to meet the

requirements of the *General DRRP Requirements* priority that it published in a notice of final priorities in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472).

Additional information on the DRRP program can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/resprogram.html#DRRP>.

*Rehabilitation of Children With Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
Priority*

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on the Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Improved physical, cognitive, social/behavioral, family, educational, or employment outcomes for children with TBI by developing or testing rehabilitation interventions, the measures needed to assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions, or both.

(b) Improved transition of children from health care facilities to school and community by developing or testing effective transition strategies, the measures needed to assess the effectiveness of transition strategies, or both.

(c) Improved TBI screening and special education services for children by developing or testing methods and procedures for use in school settings.

Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults With Disabilities Priority

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Disability and Obesity: Reducing Obesity and Obesity-Related Secondary Conditions in Adolescents and Adults with Disabilities. Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced understanding of the antecedents and consequences of obesity as a secondary condition among adolescents, adults, or both adolescents and adults with different types of preexisting physical, sensory, cognitive, and behavioral-health impairments.

(b) Improved obesity screening and diagnosis among adolescents, adults or both adolescents and adults with different types of disabilities by developing or testing effective screening and diagnostic methods and procedures.

(c) Improved outcomes for adolescents, adults, or both adolescents and adults with disabilities with obesity by development or testing of prevention strategies and treatments.

Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC) Priority

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project to serve as the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC). Under this priority, the MSKTC must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced understanding of the quality and relevance of NIDRR's Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Burn Injury (Burn) Model Systems Programs' findings. The MSKTC must contribute to this outcome by identifying and applying appropriate standards and methods for conducting research syntheses. This will allow the Model Systems Programs to bridge gaps in evidence-based practice and research.

(b) Enhanced knowledge of advances in SCI, TBI, and Burn research among consumers, clinicians, and other end users of such information. The MSKTC must contribute to this outcome by (1) identifying effective strategies for, and guiding targeted dissemination of, SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems Programs' findings about available services and interventions for individuals with SCI, TBI, and Burn; and (2) developing partnerships and collaborating with key constituencies, other NIDRR-funded projects (e.g., the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research and the National

Rehabilitation Information Center), and groups conducting similar work.

(c) Centralization of SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems resources for effective and uniform dissemination and technical assistance. The MSKTC must contribute to this outcome by serving as a centralized resource for the SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems Centers.

Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project Priority
The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) for an Assistive Technology (AT) Outcomes Research Project. Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Improvement of the AT field's ability to measure the impact of AT on the lives of people with disabilities by continuing to develop AT outcomes measures and measurement systems.

(b) Improvement of the AT field's ability to measure the impact of AT on the lives of people with disabilities by developing validated methods for measuring and classifying AT interventions, including key characteristics of both the AT device and AT provision (e.g., setting, assessment, fit/customization, user training, and device maintenance).

(c) Enhanced understanding of the impact of AT on the lives of people with disabilities by conducting at least one research project that systematically applies state-of-the-science measures of AT interventions, outcomes, and data collections mechanisms.

(d) Collaboration with the relevant NIDRR-sponsored projects, such as the Rehabilitation Research Training Center on Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and relevant projects within the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center program, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer. Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision Priority

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Mobility Aids and Wayfinding Technologies for Individuals With Blindness and Low Vision. To meet this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Effective technology solutions and intervention approaches that can enable blind and low vision individuals to safely and independently navigate their surroundings. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by identifying or developing and testing methods, models, and measures that will inform the technology solutions and intervention approaches.

(b) Improved understanding about the effectiveness of wayfinding technology and orientation and mobility (O&M) techniques for navigation and travel problems. The DRRP must be designed to contribute to this outcome by, at a minimum, conducting comparative analysis of outcomes for specific subpopulations of individuals with blindness and low vision who use O&M techniques and wayfinding technology.

(c) Increased technical and scientific knowledge about the applications of navigation and travel technologies for individuals with blindness and low vision, leading to more effective use of technologies and intervention strategies, through the development of knowledge translation and utilization activities.

(d) Coordination of research activities.

The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by collaborating and consulting with relevant Federal agencies responsible for the administration of public laws that address access to and usability of transportation and transit-related systems and environmental structures for individuals with disabilities, such as the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and relevant

NIDRR-funded research projects as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer.

Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population Priority

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) on Improving Employment Outcomes for the Low Functioning Deaf (LFD) Population.

Under this priority, the DRRP must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Enhanced knowledge about the unique functional and communication characteristics of the LFD population and the extent to which these characteristics affect disability and rehabilitation outcomes, including labor force participation and employment preparation. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by developing and testing protocols that accurately measure population characteristics; and psychometrically sound instruments that measure predictors of disability, rehabilitation, and employment outcomes.

(b) Improved employment outcomes and reduction of barriers to labor force participation for individuals who are LFD. The DRRP must contribute to this outcome by developing theory-based intervention strategies and methods that help to enhance functional skills, social interaction, communication and

literacy competencies, and scientifically-sound approaches for identifying barriers to labor force participation.

(c) Collaboration with NIDRR sponsored projects, including the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes and other relevant projects within NIDRR's RRTC and Field Initiated programs.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)

RRTCs conduct coordinated and integrated advanced programs of research targeted toward the production of new knowledge to improve rehabilitation methodology and service delivery systems, alleviate or stabilize disability conditions, or promote maximum social and economic independence for persons with disabilities. Additional information on the RRTC program can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#RRTC>.

General Requirements of RRTCs

RRTCs must—

- Carry out coordinated advanced programs of rehabilitation research;
- Provide training, including graduate, pre-service, and in-service training, to help rehabilitation personnel more effectively provide rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities;
- Provide technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties;

- Demonstrate in their applications how they will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds;
- Disseminate informational materials to individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties; and
- Serve as centers of national excellence in rehabilitation research for individuals with disabilities, their representatives, providers, and other interested parties.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures Priority

The Assistant Secretary establishes a priority for the funding of a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Effective Independent and Community Living Solutions and Measures. To meet this priority, the RRTC's research must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

- (a) Enhanced participation by individuals with disabilities at home, in the community, or in educational or workplace activities through development of effective theory-based intervention methods and outcome measures.
- (b) Improved intervention approaches and guidelines that help to remove or reduce barriers to full community integration and participation for individuals with disabilities. The RRTC must contribute to this outcome by conducting rigorous research

examining the implementation of the *Olmstead v. L.C.* (527 U.S. 581) decision and practices that serve as facilitators or barriers to independent and community living.

(c) Improved understanding about the economic utility of existing or proposed policies and practices to maximize independence and participation for individuals with disabilities through development of scientifically sound, valid and reliable methods and measures to assess these policies and practices.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program General Requirements of Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) RERCs carry out research or demonstration activities in support of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by—

- Developing and disseminating innovative methods of applying advanced technology, scientific achievement, and psychological and social knowledge to (a) solve rehabilitation problems and remove environmental barriers and (b) study and evaluate new or emerging technologies, products, or environments and their effectiveness and benefits; or
- Demonstrating and disseminating (a) innovative models for the delivery of cost-effective rehabilitation technology services to rural and urban areas and (b) other scientific research to assist in meeting the employment and independent living needs of individuals with severe disabilities; or

- Facilitating service delivery systems change through (a) the development, evaluation, and dissemination of consumer-responsive and individual and family-centered innovative models for the delivery to both rural and urban areas of innovative cost-effective rehabilitation technology services and (b) other scientific research to assist in meeting the employment and independence needs of individuals with severe disabilities. Each RERC must provide training opportunities, in conjunction with institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations, to assist individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to become rehabilitation technology researchers and practitioners.

Additional information on the RERC program can be found at:

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html>.

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs) for Technologies for Successful Aging, Wheelchair Transportation Safety, and Wireless Technologies Priorities

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes the following three priorities for the funding of (a) an RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging, (b) an RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety, and (c) an RERC for Wireless Technologies. Within its designated priority research area, each RERC will focus on innovative technological

solutions, new knowledge, and concepts that will improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

(a) *RERC for Technologies for Successful Aging*. Under this priority, the RERC must research, develop and evaluate innovative technologies and approaches that will improve the quality of life of older persons with disabilities and promote health, safety, independence, and active engagement. The RERC must emphasize the principles of universal design in its product research and development.

(b) *RERC for Wheelchair Transportation Safety*. Under this priority, the RERC must research, develop, and evaluate innovative technologies and strategies that will improve the safety and independence of wheelchair users who remain seated in their wheelchairs while using public and private transportation services. The RERC must research and develop innovative technologies and strategies that will improve the current state of the science, design guidelines and performance standards, and usability of wheeled mobility devices and wheelchair seating systems for use in the transportation environment.

(c) *RERC for Wireless Technologies*. Under this priority, the RERC must research, develop, and evaluate innovative technologies that facilitate equitable access to, and use of, future generations of wireless technologies for individuals with

disabilities of all ages. The RERC must emphasize the principles of universal design in its product research and development.

Under each priority, the RERC must be designed to contribute to the following programmatic outcomes:

(1) Increased technical and scientific knowledge-base relevant to its designated priority research area.

(2) Innovative technologies, products, environments, performance guidelines, and monitoring and assessment tools as applicable to its designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by developing and testing of these innovations.

(3) Improved research capacity in its designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by collaborating with the relevant industry, professional associations, and institutions of higher education.

(4) Improved focus on cutting edge developments in technologies within its designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by identifying and communicating with NIDRR and the field regarding trends and evolving product concepts related to its designated priority research area.

(5) Increased impact of research in the designated priority research area. The RERC must contribute to this outcome by providing technical assistance to public and private organizations, persons with disabilities, and employers on

policies, guidelines, and standards related to its designated priority research area.

In addition, under each priority, the RERC must—

- Have the capability to design, build, and test prototype devices and assist in the transfer of successful solutions to relevant production and service delivery settings;
- Evaluate the efficacy and safety of its new products, instrumentation, or assistive devices;
- Provide as part of its proposal and then implement a plan that describes how it will include, as appropriate, individuals with disabilities or their representatives in all phases of its activities, including research, development, training, dissemination, and evaluation;
- Provide as part of its proposal and then implement, in consultation with the NIDRR-funded National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research, a plan to disseminate its research results to persons with disabilities, their representatives, disability organizations, service providers, professional journals, manufacturers, and other interested parties;
- Develop and implement in the first year of the project period, in consultation with the NIDRR-funded RERC on Technology Transfer, a plan for ensuring that all new and improved

technologies developed by the RERC are successfully transferred to the marketplace;

- Conduct a state-of-the-science conference on its designated priority research area in the third year of the project period and publish a comprehensive report on the final outcomes of the conference in the fourth year of the project period; and
- Coordinate research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer.

Executive Order 12866

This NFP has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866.

Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this NFP are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits—both quantitative and qualitative—of this NFP, we have determined that the benefits of the final priorities justify the costs.

Summary of Potential Costs and Benefits

The potential costs associated with these final priorities are minimal while the benefits are significant. Grantees may incur

some costs associated with completing the application process in terms of staff time, copying, and mailing or delivery. The use of e-Application technology reduces mailing and copying costs significantly.

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Programs have been well established over the years in that similar projects have been completed successfully. These final priorities will generate new knowledge and technologies through research, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance projects.

Another benefit of these final priorities is that the establishment of new DRRPs, a new RRTC, and new RERCs will support the President's NFI and will improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The new DRRPs, RRTC, and RERCs will generate, disseminate, and promote the use of new information that will improve the options for individuals with disabilities. Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

Electronic Access to This Document

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<http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 84.133A Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects, 84.133B Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers Program, and 84.133E Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers Program) Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g), 764(a), 764(b)(2), and 764(b)(3).

Dated: May 23, 2006.

John H. Hager,
*Assistant Secretary for Special
Education and Rehabilitative
Services.*

SECTION D

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

From the notice of proposed priorities (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on February 7, 2006.

BACKGROUND

NIDRR's Model Systems Programs were originally developed to demonstrate the value of a comprehensive integrated continuum of care for individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and burn injury (Burn). Currently, NIDRR's Model Systems Programs include 36 centers that conduct or sponsor research activities designed to improve rehabilitative and pharmacological interventions that can help optimize levels of community participation, employment, and overall quality of life for individuals with SCI, TBI, and Burn. Research sponsored by the Model Systems Programs has led to a wealth of publicly available, retrievable information about SCI, TBI, and Burn. Additionally, research conducted by Model Systems Programs grantees has advanced knowledge regarding, and led to changes in, clinical practice and policy in the fields of SCI, TBI, and Burn.

The usefulness of NIDRR-funded SCI, TBI, and Burn research and development findings and products depends on how well potential users can assess the strength and relevance of these findings and products, as applied to their particular needs. End-users with limited scientific training, in particular, may need assistance in order to understand competing research claims or determine the relevance of particular findings to their individual situations. In addition, given the nature of scientific study, practical information often is based on cumulative knowledge, not upon the results of any one study.

The following proposed priority for an MSKTC is intended to ensure that information and products developed and identified through NIDRR-funded SCI, TBI, and Burn research are of high quality, are based on scientifically rigorous research and development, and are disseminated effectively. To this end, the proposed priority embraces a newer concept, knowledge translation (KT), to shape the effective dissemination and utilization of disability and rehabilitation research results critical to achieving NIDRR's mission. KT encompasses the exchange, synthesis, and ethically sound application of knowledge

within a complex system of relationships among researchers and users. See, for example, the Knowledge Translation Overview of Canadian Institutes of Health Research Web site at: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/7518.html>.

Acting as a centralized resource center, the proposed MSKTC would establish coordinated, collaborative relationships among the three Model Systems Programs (i.e., SCI, TBI, and Burn Model Systems Programs) to identify effective dissemination strategies and to help other Federal agencies and national organizations use new information and discoveries emanating from NIDRR-funded SCI, TBI, and Burn research.

REFERENCES

Knowledge Translation Overview. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. 2005, from <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/7518.html>

Campbell Collaboration. 2005, from <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org>.

Cochrane Collaboration. 2005, from <http://www.cochrane.org>

Department of Education What Works Clearinghouse from <http://www.whatworks.ed.gov>.

National Rehabilitation Information Center. 2005, from <http://www.naric.com>

National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research. 2005, <http://www.ncddr.org>.

SECTION E

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF DRRPs

GENERAL DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP) REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND:

NIDRR proposes the following General DRRP Requirements priority because it believes that the effectiveness of any DRRP (including any DBTAC) depends on, among other things, how well the DRRP coordinates its research efforts with the research of other NIDRR-funded projects, involves individuals with disabilities in its activities, and identifies specific anticipated outcomes that are linked to its objectives in applying for DRRP funding. Accordingly, NIDRR intends to use the General DRRP Requirements in conjunction with all of the other DRRP priorities NIDRR proposes.

PRIORITY:

To meet this priority, the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) must—

- (a) Coordinate on research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer;
- (b) Involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work; and
- (c) Identify anticipated outcomes (i.e., advances in knowledge or changes and improvements in policy, practice, behavior, and system capacity) that are linked to the applicant's stated grant objectives.

SECTION F

SELECTION CRITERIA

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application for the Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center.

(a) Responsiveness to an absolute or competitive priority (5 points total)

- (1) The Secretary considers the responsiveness of the application to an absolute or competitive priority published in the Federal Register.
- (2) In determining the application's responsiveness to the absolute or competitive priority, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority.

(b) Quality of the project design (25 points total)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.
 - (ii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.
 - (iii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives.
 - (iv) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.
 - (v) The extent to which the proposed project encourages consumer involvement.

(c) Quality of project services**(20 points total)**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
 - (ii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services.
 - (iii) The extent to which the technical assistance services to be provided by the proposed project involve the use of efficient strategies, including the use of technology, as appropriate, and the leveraging of non-project resources.

(d) Design of dissemination activities**(10 points total)**

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of dissemination activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
 - (ii) The extent to which the materials and information to be disseminated and the methods for dissemination are appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the familiarity of the target population with the subject matter, format of the information, and subject matter.
 - (iii) The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

(e) Quality of project personnel**(8 points total)**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator.
 - (ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(f) Adequacy of resources**(7 points total)**

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources, from the applicant organization or the lead applicant organization.
 - (ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project.
 - (iii) The extent to which the budget is adequate to support the proposed project.

(g) Quality of the management plan**(15 points total)**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

- (ii) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.
- (iii) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project.

(h) Quality of the project evaluation

(10 points total)

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.
 - (ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

SECTION G

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects. You do not need an assurance or IRB approval as a condition of applying for this competition.

If you marked "Yes" for Item 3 of Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, you must provide a human subjects "exempt research" or "nonexempt research" narrative. Insert the narrative(s) in the space provided. If you have multiple projects and need to provide more than one narrative, be sure to label each set of responses as to the project they address.

A. EXEMPT RESEARCH NARRATIVE.

If you marked "Yes" for item 3 a. and designated exemption numbers(s), provide the "exempt research" narrative. The narrative must contain sufficient information about the involvement of human subjects in the proposed research to allow a determination by ED that the designated exemption(s) are appropriate. The narrative must be succinct. In addition, narratives are required for each participating partner if research is being conducted at other sites.

B. NONEXEMPT RESEARCH NARRATIVE.

If you marked "No" for item 3 a. you must provide the "nonexempt research" narrative. The narrative must address the seven points. Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct.

Copies of the Department of Education regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects as well as other documents are available on the website below. For more information call (202) 260-3353 or go on-line the Protection of Human Subjects in research Web Site:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>

SECTION H

APPLICATION FORMAT

APPLICATION FORMAT (GRANTS.GOV)

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (grants.gov) by the closing date of **March 07, 2011**.

It is recommended that your electronic application (or paper application if you have requested and been approved for a waiver), be organized in the following manner and include the following:

NOTE: You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for:

- (1) abstract;
- (2) table of contents;
- (3) project narrative;
- (4) other – resumes;
- (5) other – letters of commitment/support;
- (6) other and
- (7) budget narrative/justification.

There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

1. Application for Federal Education Assistance (Form SF 424)

- This application cover sheet requires basic identifying information about the applicant and the application.
- Applicants should clearly indicate the CFDA number of the program **84.133A-X** in block 11. If this information is not provided, your application may be assigned and reviewed under a different program. For electronic submissions, you must download the correct application package from grants.gov.
- Applicants must fill in block 12, Funding Opportunity Number/Priority Title. ED-GRANTS-XXXX/Title or the CFDA number.
- Applicants should note that there are multiple DRRPs open and use the **RELEVANT** CFDA Title from the NFP/NIA as the title.

2. Table of Contents

- The Table of Contents shows where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized.
- While the application will be submitted electronically, the reviewers will use printed copies during the review process. The Table of Contents will assist them in more efficiently and effectively evaluating your application.

- Use the Table of Content heading to upload your document.

3. Project Abstract

- The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced.
- Use the Abstract heading to upload your document.

4. Budget Form and Information (ED 524)

- Remember that you must provide complete budget information for each year of the proposed project. Use the Budget Narrative/Justification heading to upload.
- Please report on any Federal and Non-Federal funds that will be used.
- Specific instructions for completing the budget forms are provided within this application package.

Name: Enter the Name of the applicant organization(s) or institution(s) in the space provided.

Personnel (Line 1): Enter project personnel salaries and wages only. Include fees and expenses for consultants on line 6.

Fringe Benefits (Line 2): The institution's normal fringe benefits contribution may be charged to the program. Leave this line blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of the indirect cost.

Travel (Line 3): Indicate the travel costs of employees and participants only. Include travel of persons such as consultants and trainees on line 6.

Equipment (Line 4): Indicate the cost of tangible, non-expendable personal property that has a usefulness greater than one year and acquisition costs that are the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000 per article. Lower limits may be established to maintain consistency with the applicant's policy.

Supplies (line 5): Show all tangible personal property except that on line 4.

Contractual (line 6): The contractual category should include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the consultant's services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract.

Construction (line 7): Not applicable.

Other (line 8): Indicate all direct costs not covered on lines 1-6. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fees, honoraria and travel

(where a contract is not in place for services), stipends, training, and communication and printing costs.

Total Direct Costs (line 9): The sum of lines 1-8.

Indirect Costs (line 10): There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. Use your institution's Federally negotiated rate.

Training Stipends (line 11): There are three types of projects that might include budget requests for stipends, tuition allowance, or other types of similar charges to support the objectives of the project:

- ☐ Fellowship or Scholarship Programs
- ☐ Educational Training Projects
- ☐ Projects where students receive tuition remission or other forms of compensation, as, or in lieu of wages.

Total Cost (line 12): This should equal to sum of lines 9-11 (total direct costs + indirect + stipends). The sum for column one, labeled *Project Year 1 (a)*, should also be equal to item 18a on the application cover sheet (SF Form 424).

Cost Share or Matching: Please include this information on the ED Form 524, Section B – Budget Summary, Non-Federal Funds – Tab 2 and in your budget narrative.

5. Budget Narrative

- This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.
- Address Cost Share or Matching in a separate section of the budget narrative labeled "Cost Share or Matching".
- Please provide an itemized budget breakdown for each project year.
- Descriptions of purchases may be included but is not required.

Use the Budget Narrative/Justification heading to upload your document.

6. Project Narrative

- The application narrative responds to the Statutory, Regulatory and General RRTC Requirements found in Section E and Selection Criteria found in Section F of this application package. The reviewers will use this section to evaluate your application.
- Applying through grants.gov use the Project Narrative selection criteria categories to attach your narrative.

Each applicant is encouraged to limit the project narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Single spacing may be used for titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Begin numbering the first page in Arabic numerals (“1”) and number the pages consecutively throughout the document.
- Include all critical information in the program narrative, minimizing the need for additional appendices.
- Include a complete bibliography listing all materials that were referenced in the project narrative.
- Upload in one document under the Project Narrative heading using the correct document format.

NOTE: The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the project narrative section.

7. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

- Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years should be included.
- Applying through grants.gov use the Other-Vitas category to attach your vitas.
- If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.

8 Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures

- Assurances - Non-Construction Programs; Certifications Regarding Lobbying form
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction; Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;

9 Reporting Requirements

At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary under 34. CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.72 (c). For specific requirements on reporting please go to http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/ed524b_instructions.pdf

NIDRR will provide the reporting information to the successful applicants.

NOTE: The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the project narrative section.

7. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

- Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years should be included.
- Applying through grants.gov use the Other-Vitas category to attach your vitas.
- If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.

8 Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures

- Assurances - Non-Construction Programs; Certifications Regarding Lobbying form
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction; Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;

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SECTION I

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. CAN I GET AN EXTENSION OF THE DUE DATE?

In the case of most competitions the answer is no. On rare occasions the Department of Education may extend a closing date for all applicants. If that occurs, a notice of the revised due date is published in the Federal Register, this extension applies to all applications for a given competition. There are no extensions or exceptions to the due date made for individual applicants. Additionally, there are provisions for extension for Grants.gov, per the guidance included in the application package.

2. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?

The application should include a project narrative, vitae of key personnel, and a budget, as well as all other forms identified in this package. Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed projects, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project. The budgets for all years, including a detailed budget narrative, should be included. The 133F (Research Fellowship) is the exemption to the required budget. If collaboration with another organization or individual is involved in any proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or letters of cooperation. It is not useful to include general letters of support or endorsement in the application. If the applicant proposes to use unique tests or other measurement instruments that are not widely known in the field, it would be helpful to include the instrument in the application. Many applications contain voluminous appendices that are not helpful and in many cases cannot even be mailed to the reviewers. It is generally not helpful to include such things as brochures, general capability statements of collaborating organizations, maps, copies of publications, or descriptions of other projects completed by the applicant.

3. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED FOR THE APPLICATION?

NIDRR generally advises applicants to organize the application to follow the selection criteria that will be used. The project narrative should address the specific selection criteria for the competition. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific programs and are contained in this application package. Additionally, applicants should provide clearly stated hypotheses, goals, objectives, expected outcomes, and public benefit of the research or development project. The application should be organized to provide a thorough description of the methods and target population(s) and supported by evidence of need for the project, as identified in the relevant literature; citations are useful and may strengthen the proposal. Specific information on the format can be found in the application format section of this application package.

4. ARE THERE PAGE LIMITS TO MY APPLICATION?

NIDRR has two competitions with mandatory page limitations, Research Fellowships (133F) and Small Business Innovative Research (133S). All other competitions will suggest page limitations for the narrative sections of the proposal. The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. The Notice Inviting Applications will describe the mandatory or suggested limitations, such as page size, spacing, and font size. The suggested page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the human subjects narrative; the budget narrative; the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all pertinent information in the application narrative.

5. MAY I SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO MORE THAN ONE OPEN NIDRR PROGRAM COMPETITION AT A TIME OR MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION TO A PARTICULAR PROGRAM COMPETITION?

Yes. You may submit more than one application in any given competition. You may submit to as many open competitions, for which an application is responsive to the program requirements. However, each competition is unique and the selection criteria will vary from one competition to another. It is important that each separate application include the required materials for that particular competition.

6. DO I NEED AN ABSTRACT AND WHAT SHOULD IT INCLUDE?

Yes. The abstract is used by both the peer reviewers and the program staff in the review and processing of the application. The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of the project (all years), not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. If applying through Grants.gov, use the ED Abstract form to attach your abstract or the abstract section in Grants.gov.

7. WHAT IS THE ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COST RATE?

The limits on indirect costs vary according to the program. NIDRR currently has two programs with a restricted indirect cost rate. An applicant for a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (133B) program may not collect more than 15% of the total grant award as indirect cost charges. An applicant for Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training project (133P) is limited to a training grant indirect rate of 8%, less tuition, stipend, and fees. The 133F, Research Fellowships does not submit a budget or use an indirect cost rate for submission. For all other programs, Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A), Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (133E), Field Initiated projects (133G), and the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (133N), applicants must either have a current indirect cost rate agreement to charge indirect costs or if an applicant does not have a federally negotiated rate they can charge up to 10% of direct

salaries and benefits as indirect costs until a negotiated indirect cost rate is approved. A new applicant using the 10% must submit their proposed rate to the Department's Indirect Cost office within 90 days. The maximum amount of the award includes both direct and indirect costs. The Department's Indirect Cost office has more information on indirect cost rates, see <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/abouticg.html>

8. CAN PROFIT MAKING BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Yes; however, for-profit organizations will not be able to collect a fee or profit on the grant. It varies by program.

9. CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Individuals are not eligible to apply for most grant competitions under NIDRR programs (133A, B, E, G, P, or N). The one exception is the Research Fellowship program (84.133F), which is available only to individuals. The Merit Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships awards are one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) awards. The Fellow must work principally on the fellowship during the term of the fellowship award. We define one FTE as equal to 40 hours per week. No Fellow is allowed to be a direct recipient of Federal government grant funds in addition to those provided by the Switzer Fellowship (during the duration of the Fellowship award performance period). Fellows may, subject to compliance with their institution's policy on additional employment, work on a Federal grant that has been awarded to the Fellow's institution. Fellows may, subject to compliance with their institution's policy on additional employment, work additional hours at their institution. Additional work that is not monitored by the Fellow's institution is subject to NIDRR's limits regarding the number of additional hours permitted. Please contact NIDRR if the latter situation applies.

10. CAN NIDRR STAFF ADVISE ME WHETHER MY PROJECT IS OF INTEREST TO NIDRR OR LIKELY TO BE FUNDED?

No. NIDRR staff can only advise you of the requirements of the program in which you propose to submit your application. However, staff cannot advise you of whether your subject area or proposed approach is likely to receive approval.

11. HOW DO I ENSURE THAT MY APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED UNDER THE CORRECT COMPETITION?

Applicants should be sure that their applications are referred to the correct competition by clearly including the competition title and CFDA number, including alphabetical code, on the Standard Form 424, and include a project title that describes the project, based on the competition. If reapplying for the Field Initiated (133G), you should identify if the application is a resubmittal from a previous fiscal year.

12. HOW SOON AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION CAN I FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE FUNDED?

The time from closing date to grant award date varies from program to program. Generally speaking, NIDRR endeavors to have awards made within six to seven months of the closing date. Unsuccessful applicants generally will be notified within that time frame as well. When NIDRR is able to release information on the status of grant applications, it will notify applicants by letter. The results of the peer review cannot be released except through this formal notification. This information is **not** posted on the NIDRR homepage or the Grants.gov or e-Application website.

13. WHAT START DATE SHOULD I USE ON MY APPLICATION?

For the purpose of estimating a project start date, the applicant should estimate approximately six to seven months from the closing date, preferably October 1. You must have a start date that allows you to complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) by May 31st with six month of activities to report on.

14. IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, CAN I ASSUME I WILL GET THE REQUESTED BUDGET AMOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS?

No. Funding in subsequent years is subject to availability of funds and project performance.

15. WILL ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS BE FUNDED?

No. Peer review panels can result in more applications being determined to be worthy of consideration for funding than available resources allow.. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider resubmitting applications in future competitions. Funded applications will be notified in the manner described in #12.

16. HOW DOES THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS IMPACT ON MY APPLICATION?

Successful applicants with multi-year grants must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) demonstrating and documenting their progress in meeting approved project objectives and their success in addressing the performance measures outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project. Grantees will also be required to submit a final performance report, 90 days after the end of the project period. For NIDRR, the APR is submitted electronically via a web-based system. This system is maintained by a contractor and grantees are notified after receiving an award with the appropriate URL and personal password to access the system. The contractor will also send a letter to the grantee informing them when and how to submit their APR. The Department will use the applicant's performance data for program management

and administration, in such areas as determining new and continuation funding and planning technical assistance. Grantees are required to participate fully in any evaluation of the NIDRR program carried out by the Department of Education.

17. DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE COST SHARE/MATCHING IN MY APPLICATION?

NIDRR has cost share/matching requirements on two of its programs, the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) and the Field Initiated program (133G) in accordance with statutory (29 USC 762), regulatory (34 CFR Section 350.52), and administrative requirements. This information should be reflected on the SF 424 #18. (B), the ED 524 form - Section B (Budget Summary Non-Federal Funds), and in the budget narrative for each year. A minimum amount of up to 1% of the total yearly budget amount is required; however, you may include more than 1%. If the cost share amount is changed for a competition, it will be announced in the Notice Inviting Applications. For more information, see EDGAR 74.23 and 84.24. If the cost share is voluntary, the amount and explanation should also be in the SF 424, ED 524, and the budget justification.

18. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ABOUT HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION IN MY RESEARCH?

If you are planning research involving human subjects at any time during the project period, you check “Yes” in the Human Subjects section of the ED supplement to the SF 424 form. If you checked “Yes,” you need to indicate whether the research is exempt or not exempt from the protection of human subjects requirements of EDGAR part 97 and if you have an IRB number. You will need to fill out the human subjects narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. The program and the Department’s human subjects staff review the applicant’s response against the application itself to determine its accuracy. They contact you for additional information or clarification, if needed. More information can be found in the instructions for the SF 424 form and in this application package in the Human Subjects section.

19. SHOULD I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION VIA GRANTS.GOV?

The Federal Government is moving towards mandatory electronic submission for its grant applications. The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) provides information on how to submit via Grants.gov and the application package includes helpful tips. The NIA will also identify if paper submission is allowed. If you do submit by paper, include a disk copy of your application. **We strongly suggest:**

- (1) Read the Grants.gov instructions carefully;
- (2) Check with your organization or institution if they are already registered in Grants.gov; if not, **do not wait** to set up your account because it can take five or more days to register;

- (3) Review the form sections before sending the application to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and
- (4) Submit early; electronic applications must be uploaded on Grants.gov by 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date and processed by Grants.gov successfully. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process; if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. Applications received/logged in after 4:30:00 pm (Washington, DC time) will not be reviewed.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN APPLICATION PREPARATION

RELEVANT TO PROGRAM

1. **CFDA Number:**
In the title block on the SF 424 form, please note the appropriate CFDA 84.133A. For electronic submissions, you must download the correct application package from Grants.gov, ED Grants Funding Opportunity number or submit your application electronically through the grants.gov system www.grants.gov.
- 2.. **ED-GRANTS- XXXX (Priority Title).**
Required field on the SF 424 form for both Grants.gov and e-Application. Or use the CFDA Number
3. **Indirect Cost:**
There is no restricted indirect cost rate for the **133A**, 133E, 133G or 133N programs. You should use your federal negotiated indirect cost rate – see #7 FAQs. Indirect cost office:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/icgindex.html>.
4. **Application Narrative -**
Organize your narrative in accordance with the selection criteria in Section F of this package. Address all criteria. Include a table of contents in your application in order to highlight where the application narrative can be found in the application. If applying through Grants.gov use the Project Narrative form to attach your narrative. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 125 pages, using the following standards: A “page” is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides. Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative. Single space may be used for Titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs. Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10-pitch (characters per inch).

CLOSING DATE/TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATION

5. **Applications must be submitted electronically or postmarked by the closing date of March 07, 2011, if submitting in paper – you must have a waiver.**
Follow the transmittal instructions for submitting in paper or electronically found in Section J.
6. **You must submit your application electronically via Grants.gov.**
Your application must be uploaded into Grants.gov by 4:30:00 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date. Please allow several hours or a full day for this process; if there is a submission error, time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see section J. A copy of your application should not be emailed directly to the Department.

FORMS

7. Only the primary institution fills out the required forms.

Any partner or collaborating groups will be a subcontractor to the primary. The only paperwork the subcontractor should complete is that required by the primary institution. You should include a letter of intent in the application from any collaborating group saying that if awarded what goals/duties they will be responsible for and the dollar amount associated with their involvement.

Application for Federal Assistance SF 424

8. Leave these blocks blank or enter N/A:

Block 4-Applicant Identifier, **block 5**-Applicant Identifier, **block 5a**- Federal Entity, **block 5b**- Federal Award Identifier, **block 6**-Date Received by State, and **block 7**,- State Application Number.

9. Legal Name:

Block 8a is for the name of institution or entity that will be responsible for this grant if funded. Applying electronically this will match with information in the registration.

10. DUNS number:

It is important to verify with your fiscal office the DUNS number, which goes in **block 8c** on the ED 424 form. If you do not have one, call 1-800-333-0505 to set one up. This number is required. Applying via electronically you must enter the DUNS number for your organization used when registering.

11. CFDA Number:

In **block 11**, please note the appropriate CFDA and title you are applying for.

12. Funding Opportunity Number/Priority Title.

In **block 12** this is a required field when using both Grants.gov and e-Application. Or use the CFDA Number.

13. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

In **block 15**, this is the title given by the applicant. If applying to a specific priority topic – the title should be as close as possible.

14. Block #18a:

The total amount of Federal funds requested includes both direct and indirect costs for the first year only. The totals on the ED 524 form must include direct and indirect costs and no year can be over the maximum amount. (Note: 84.133F applicants do not submit the ED 524 form)

15. Block #18b:

The amount of cost share/matching that the applicant is providing. This amount should be on the “B” side of the ED 524 form and described in the budget narrative.

16. Block #18f:

The amount of program income that is estimated to be generated by this application if funded. It should be described in the budget narrative and does not

go on the ED 524 form. An example of program income would be registration fees for a conference. These will be used to off-set part of the cost of the conference.

17. EO 12372:

Mark Block #19, the EO 12372 as no and not covered. This program is not covered.

ED Supplemental Form

18. Project Director:

Block #1, Project director information. The Project Director is the primary person responsible for meeting the goals and objectives of the grant.

19. Novice applicant:

Block #2. Please mark N/A. This does not apply to NIDRR programs.

20. Human Subjects:

Block #3. You must include a separate 7-point narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. If you check “no”, please include a paragraph of why it is not required. IRB approval is not required at the time of award, but must be in place before research begins. The area to upload this information is available through this form.

ED 524

21. Budget Information:

BE SURE TO CHECK THE MATH - the application will not be reviewed if the request for funds on block 18a of the SF 424 form, the ED 524 form or the budget justification goes over the maximum amount for any year (total of direct and indirect costs). A detailed budget narrative is needed for each year of grant years requested. Include in the narrative/justification contract information and all mandatory and voluntary cost share from side B of the ED 524. (Note: 84.133F applicants do not submit a ED 524 form)

22. Costs associated with students, i.e., Post Docs that are excluded from the direct cost lines are not subject to the indirect costs if placed on Tuition/Stipend/Fee line. If the student costs (salary, fringe, tuition and fees, supplies, training and conference fees, etc.) are included in the direct cost amount they are subject to the appropriate indirect rate.

GRANTS.GOV AT <http://grants.gov> Information

23. We strongly suggest:

- (1) Read the instructions carefully;
- (2) Don't wait until close to the due date to set up your account - It can take several days to register;
- (3) Review the application before sending final version to ensure that all information has been uploaded correctly and completely; and
- (4) Submit early.

- 24. Electronic applications must be uploaded on Grants.gov** by 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date.
Please allow several hours or a full day for this process, if there is a submission error time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit to meet the deadline. For additional information on electronic submission procedures, see the transmittal section of the Notice Inviting Applications.
- 25. You will be uploading sections of your application by heading.**
There is a heading for:
- (1) abstract;
 - (2) table of contents;
 - (3) project narrative;
 - (4) other – resumes;
 - (5) other – letters of commitment/support;
 - (6) other and
 - (7) budget narrative/justification.
- There is a file-size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading.
- 26. Document Format:**
You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format, if you upload a file type other than these three file types, such as Excel, or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.
- 27. UNSUBMIT:**
Please note that e-Applicaton **does** allow you to unsubmit your application if you find an error before the due date and time. You will have to select unsubmit then make your changes and select the Ready to Submit button again in order to complete the process.

ABSTRACT/NARRATIVE/APPENDICES

- 28. Abstract:**
The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. Applying through grants.gov use the Abstract heading to upload your abstract.
- 29. Number all pages**
to make it easier for the reader to refer to a page number if comments are given (including the appendices).
- 30. Vitae:**
Remember to include pertinent information in your narrative of the qualifications of the key personnel. A more extensive 2-4 page vitae can be included in the

appendices. Applying through Grants.gov use the Other – Resume heading to attach your vitas or in the other document section of Grants.gov. Remember only one document can be uploaded per heading.

31. Advisory Board:

We suggest that you limit your list of advisory board members in the application. You can give a description of the type/qualification of the person. Remember that an extensive listing of proposed names effects our peer reviewer selection. Applying through Grants.gov use the Other – Letters of Commitment/Support heading to up load your letters of commitment or in the other document section of Grants.gov.. Remember only one document can be uploaded per heading.

32. Letters of Commitment/Support:

If you have identified a partner, sub-contractor or consultant you should include a letter of commitment from them stating what they'll be doing on your project. We suggest that you only include key letters of support. Remember that letters of support diminish our peer reviewer pool. Applying through Grants.gov use the Other – Letters of Commitment/Support heading to up load your letters of commitment or in the other document section of Grants.gov. Remember only one document can be uploaded per heading.

33. Use Of Person Loading Charts.

It is important for applicants to include proposed time commitments for all project personnel. Also, program officials and applicants often find person loading charts useful formats for showing project personnel and their time commitments to individual activities. A personal loading chart is a tabular representation of major evaluation activities by number of days spent by each key person involved in each activity.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

34. Rehabilitation Act:

To find information on the Rehab Act of 1973, as amended, as well as other NIDRR policy & legislation, go to:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/policy.html> and
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/req/narrative.html?exp=0>

35. Help in Preparing Applications.

We are happy to provide general program information. Clearly it would not be appropriate for staff to participate in the actual writing of an application, but we can respond to specific questions about our application requirements and evaluation criteria, or about the announced priorities. Applicants should understand that such previous contact is not required, nor does it guarantee the success of an application.

36. Possibility Of Learning The Outcome Of Review Panels Prior To Official Notification.

Every year we are called by a number of applicants who have legitimate reasons for needing to know the outcome of the review prior to official notification. Some applicants need to make job decisions, some need to notify a partner, etc.

Regardless of the reason, we cannot share information about the review with anyone until the Assistant Secretary has approved a slate of projects recommended for funding. You will be notified as quickly as possible either by telephone (if your application is recommended for funding), or through a letter (if your application is not successful).

37. Return of Non-Funded Applications.

We do not return original copies of applications. Thus, applicants should retain at least one copy of the application. Copies of reviewer comments will be mailed to all applicants.

38. Successful Applications And Estimated/Projected Budget Amounts In Subsequent Years.

There is a maximum award amount specified for the priority/competitions included in this package. The Department rejects and does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amount for any single budget period of 12 months for the priorities included in this package. Since the yearly budgets for multi-year projects will be negotiated at the time of the initial award, applicants must include detailed budgets for each year of their proposed project. Generally, out-year funding levels most likely will not exceed 1st year budgets. However, budget modifications during the negotiation process, the findings from the previous year, or needed changes in the study design can affect your budget requirements in subsequent years, but in no case will out-year budgets exceed the maximum award amount.

39. To see what NIDRR has funded or are currently funding, we have an on-line program directory at www.naric.com.

Once there - click on NIDRR. Under grantee resources click on search for other research projects. This will connect you to the program directory. Click on search all fields then type in **DRRP**. By clicking on a grant number you can see information on who has the grant, how to contact them and a brief description of their project. Instead of search all field you can select searching by project type – i.e., Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects.

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Check with your fiscal office to see if your institution has an assigned DUNS before contacting Dun & Bradstreet

D-U-N-S No.: Please provide the applicant's D-U-N-S Number. You can obtain your D-U-N-S Number at no charge by calling **1-800-234-3867** or by completing a D-U-N-S Number Request Form. The form can be obtained via the Internet at the following URL:

<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

The D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit number that does not convey any information about the recipient. A built in check digit helps assure the accuracy of the D-U-N-S Number. The ninth digit of each number is the check digit, which is mathematically related to the other digits. It lets computer systems determine if a D-U-N-S Number has been entered correctly.

Dun & Bradstreet, a global information services provider, has assigned D-U-N-S numbers to over 43 million companies worldwide. **Live help Monday-Friday 8am-6pm (EST) Dial 1.800.234.3867**

Note: Electronic submission via Grants.gov must use DUNS number your organization used when it registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

SECTION J

GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education

GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS—2011

To facilitate your use of Grants.gov, this document includes important submission procedures you need to be aware of to ensure your application is received in a timely manner and accepted by the Department of Education.

ATTENTION

Applications submitted to Grants.gov for the Department of Education will be posted using Adobe forms. Therefore, applicants will need to download the latest version of Adobe reader (at least Adobe Reader 8.1.2). Information on computer and operating system compatibility with Adobe and links to download the latest version is available on Grants.gov. We strongly recommend that you review these details on www.Grants.gov before completing and submitting your application. In addition, applicants should submit their application a day or two in advance of the closing date as detailed below. Applicants will no longer need to use the PureEdge software to create or submit an application. If you have any questions regarding this matter please email the Grants.gov Contact Center at support@grants.gov or call 1-800-518-4726.

1. REGISTER EARLY

Grants.gov registration may take five or more business days to complete. You may begin working on your application while completing the registration process, but you cannot submit an application until all of the Registration steps are complete. For detailed information on the Registration Steps, please go to: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. [Note: Your organization will need to update its Central Contractor Registry (CCR) registration annually.]

2. SUBMIT EARLY

We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded. The time it takes to upload an application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection, and the time it takes Grants.gov to process the application will vary as well. If Grants.gov rejects your application (see step three below), you will need to resubmit successfully before 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, DC time on the deadline date.

Note: To submit successfully, you must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when your organization registered with the CCR (Central Contractor Registry).

3. VERIFY SUBMISSION IS OK

You will want to verify that Grants.gov and the Department of Education receive your Grants.gov submission timely and that it was validated successfully. To see the

date/time your application was received, login to Grants.gov and click on the Track My Application link. For a successful submission, the date/time received should be earlier than 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, AND the application status should be: Validated, Received by Agency, or Agency Tracking Number Assigned.

If the date/time received is later than 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the deadline date, your application is late. If your application has a status of “Received” it is still awaiting validation by Grants.gov. Once validation is complete, the status will either change to “Validated” or “Rejected with Errors.” If the status is “Rejected with Errors,” your application has not been received successfully. Some of the reasons Grants.gov may reject an application can be found on the Grants.gov site:

http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp#54. For more detailed information on why an application may be rejected, you can review Application Error Tips <http://www.grants.gov/section910/ApplicationErrorTips.pdf>. If you discover your application is late or has been rejected, please see the instructions below. Note: You will receive a series of confirmations both online and via e-mail about the status of your application. Please do not rely solely on e-mail to confirm whether your application has been received timely and validated successfully.

SUBMISSION PROBLEMS – WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If you have problems submitting to Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or <http://www.grants.gov/contactus/contactus.jsp>, or use the customer support available on the Web site: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_help.jsp.

If electronic submission is optional and you have problems that you are unable to resolve before the deadline date and time for electronic applications, please follow the transmittal instructions for hard copy applications in the Federal Register notice and get a hard copy application postmarked by midnight on the deadline date.

If electronic submission is required, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30:00 p.m., unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

HELPFUL HINTS WHEN WORKING WITH GRANTS.GOV

Please note, once you download an application from Grants.gov, you will be working offline and saving data on your computer. Please be sure to note where you are saving the Grants.gov file on your computer. You will need to logon to Grants.gov to upload and submit the application. **You must provide on your application the DUNS number that was used when your organization registered with the CCR.**

Please go to http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_help.jsp for help with Grants.gov. For additional tips related to submitting grant applications, please refer to

the Grants.gov Submit Application FAQs found on the Grants.gov http://www.grants.gov/help/submit_application_faqs.jsp.

DIAL-UP INTERNET CONNECTIONS

When using a dial up connection to upload and submit your application, it can take significantly longer than when you are connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection, e.g. cable modem/DSL/T1. While times will vary depending upon the size of your application, it can take a few minutes to a few hours to complete your grant submission using a dial up connection. If you do not have access to a high-speed connection and electronic submission is required, you may want to consider following the instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. **(See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)**

MAC USERS

For MAC compatibility information, review the FAQs for non-windows user at the following Grants.gov link: http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp.

IfError! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Electronic submission is required and you are concerned about your ability to submit electronically as a non-windows user, please follow instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

ATTACHING FILES – ADDITIONAL TIPS

Please note the following tips related to attaching files to your application:

6. Ensure that you only attach the Education approved file types detailed in the Federal Register application notice (.doc, .pdf or .rtf). Also, do not upload any password protected files to your application.
7. Grants.gov cannot process an application that includes two or more files that have the same name within a grant submission. Therefore, each file uploaded to your application package should have a unique file name.
8. When attaching files, applicants should limit the size of their file names. Lengthy file names could result in difficulties with opening and processing your application. We recommend you keep your file names to less than 50 characters. In addition, applicants should avoid including special characters in their file names (for example, %, *, /, etc.) Both of these conditions (lengthy file names and/or special characters including in the file names) could result in difficulties opening and processing a submitted application.

9. Applicants should limit the size of their file attachments. Documents submitted that contain graphics and/or scanned material often greatly increase the size of the file attachments and can result in difficulties opening the files. For reference, the average discretionary grant application package totals 1 to 2 MB. Therefore, you may want to check the total size of your package before submission.

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN OBTAINED.

SUBMISSION OF PAPER APPLICATIONS BY MAIL.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA number 84.133A-1)
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

SUBMISSION OF PAPER APPLICATIONS BY HAND DELIVERY.

If you submit your application in paper format if a waiver has been obtained by hand delivery, you (or a courier service) must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-1)
550 12th Street, SW
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and
- (2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

SECTION K

REQUIRED FORMS AND FORM INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION FORMS

The enclosed forms shall be used by all applicants for Federal Assistance under all NIDRR programs. A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. If an item does not appear to be relevant to the assistance requested, write "NA" for not applicable.

For paper submission (IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND APPROVED) this application consists of four parts. These parts are organized in the same manner that the submitted application should be organized. These parts are as follows:

- Part I** Federal Assistance Application Face Page (SF 424) and the ED Supplemental
- Part II** Budget Information
- Part III** Application Narrative
- Part IV** Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

Each submitted application should include an index or table of contents and a one-page project abstract. Pages should be consecutively numbered.

For **MANDATORY** electronic submission through Grants.gov the application format is set in the Headings.

- Part I** Federal Assistance Application Face Page (SF 424)
ED Supplemental
- Part II** Abstract
Table of Contents
Project Narrative
Other—Resumes
Other—Letters of Commitment/Support
Other
Budget Narrative

REQUIRED FORMS

The enclosed forms shall be used by all applicants for Federal Assistance under all NIDRR programs. A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. If an item does not appear to be relevant to the assistance requested, write "NA" for not applicable.

For paper submission (IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND APPROVED) this application consists of four parts. These parts are organized in the same manner that the submitted application should be organized. These parts are as follows:

- Part I** Federal Assistance Application Face Page (SF 424) and the ED Supplemental
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- Part III** Application Narrative
- Part IV** Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures

Each submitted application should include an index or table of contents and a one-page project abstract. Pages should be consecutively numbered.

SECTION L

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Did you complete the registration process for Grants.gov for the mandatory electronic submission on www.grants.gov?

DOES YOUR APPLICATION INCLUDE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

- ☐ Cover page (SF 424) marked appropriately with **84.133A-3**. Download of correct package for **84.133A-3** applying electronically
- ☐ Priority Topic identified in the Descriptive Title in Block 11 of the SF 424?
- ☐ Budget form (ED form 524) with dollar amounts not exceeding the maximum in any year?
- ☐ Required Cost Share included both on the “B” side of the ED 524 and explained in the budget narrative for each year?
- ☐ Budget narrative for each year with arithmetic checked for accuracy
- ☐ Program narrative, including abstract and responses to the selection criteria
- ☐ Assurances and Certifications (from the forms list in section K)
- ☐ Correctly uploaded files on Grants.gov?
- ☐ Narrative on the Protection of Human Subjects?

DID YOU DO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

- ☐ Submit application on or before **Monday, March 07, 2011**?
- ☐ Provide 1 original and 2 copies of the application if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service (Although not required, 1 original and 9 copies are requested and a disk copy) – if you obtained a waiver?
- ☐ Fully complete the upload of your application and receive successful validation of the submission **before 4:30:00 pm**, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date?

PAPERWORK BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 200 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection.

If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. **If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to:** 84.133 Grant Program, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-2700.

GRANT APPLICATION RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If you fail to receive the notification of application within fifteen (15) days from the closing date, call:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
(202) 245-6288

GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING INFORMATION

The Department of Education provides information about grant and contract opportunities electronically in several ways:

ED Internet Home Page www.ed.gov